



## School for Housewives

By Marion Harland



SOME  
BITS  
OF  
USEFUL  
INFORMA-  
TION

### HOUSEWIFE'S EXCHANGE

PRACTI-  
CAL  
ADVICE  
FOR  
HEADS OF  
FAMILIES

**A** N ever-welcome Baltimore correspondent makes these deposits of value with the exchange:

One of your friends wants to know why her syrup would not jelly after cooking over four days. Tell her to try with fresh syrup, more sugar, and very little cooking. I have made it without any, by simply keeping the jar in the hot sun until it does jelly. We must remember that the sugar we get now has not as much sugar in it as it used to have.

Tell the lady whose gold fish died that they require very little food; indeed, too much of it and changing the water too often will kill them. I have two and they have lived for years, where others in the same house have died. I give them every day a piece of fish food the size of a ten cent piece, and change their water once a week.

I should think "E. M." would find common flour starch, which does not yellow with age, satisfactory in pasting newspaper cuts in a scrap book. If only the ink impression is desired, the art must be learned from one who understands it.

B. A. T.

Will you kindly tell me what will take ink spots out of a white dress with blue figures in it?

N. Y.

The difficulty in giving you a trustworthy recipe lies in the obvious fact that what will extract the ink will take out the blue spots should it touch them. Suppose you try a thick paste of cornstarch plastered over the ink. Leave it on for three days, then wash. I am told the ink will come with it. If the spots do not encroach upon the blue figures, touch them with lemon juice and salt.

1. I will esteem it a very great kindness if you give a recipe for preserving tomatoes as catsup. Most, if not all, of the recipes given produce a dark-colored catsup, while tomato catsup, which can be had at the store, is a bright red color, and is quite a relish; but we have a dread of goods prepared for sale.

2. Can you furnish a recipe that will provide us with a natural tomato-colored catsup, and also state if you think cauliflower can be "canned," and how?

C. H.

1. Much of the bright-colored catsup offered for sale is "doctored" with salicylic acid, and thus warranted to keep. The home-made product is darkened by spices and much boiling. You may leave out allspice and cloves, but the flavor will not be as fine as if they are used. I shall be happy to serve you in this matter if possible, by giving you any recipe sent in by other members of our "Family Circle" which will solve your puzzle.

2. I have never seen canned cauliflower, but see no reason why it should not be put up by cooking tender and covering with boiling, salted water, then sealed immediately.

Here is a pretty story which will interest all who love plants and their culture:

1. Like many more Northerners, went to the Cotton Centennial of New Orleans during the winter of 1885; while there purchased for twenty-five cents a "Resurrection Plant." It is, in its dried state, just a little bunch of twigs, the size of a large hen's egg. Many times have I sat, watching it uncurl, after being placed in a saucer of water. So once more, after four or five years, I brought forth my "little plant." It looked very woebegone. I gave it a good bath, then a fresh saucer of water, placing it on our porch table. It began to take up water like a thirsty animal after a long journey; soon the little, fern-like leaves opened, and in about an hour the little plant had about covered the saucer. Now, as I remember it in days gone by, it was a beautiful green. The long sleep has not agreed with it, for it is now a rusty bronze, about four inches at the greatest length, and looks in shape like a miniature palm leaf without the stem, composed of many slender leaves, the crown being a stem end. I have tried an experiment with it, planting it in a pot filled with earth and stones, then setting the pot on a bowl of water. I want it to grow, but it remains just the same. I believe it originally came from Mexico. Can you tell "P. P. H." myself, and most likely many more interested readers, anything of this queer little plant, how it lives and grows in its own country?

A. J. S.

1. Will you kindly inform me, through the columns of your paper, whether it is good form to use the initials of the bride on all of the linen, or is it better to use those of the groom?

2. Also the width of the hems in table linens, such as tablecloths and napkins?

V. I. D.

1. The initials of the bride, if they are marked before the marriage. Many prefer to wait until afterward, marking the linen then with the wife's new initials. Those of the bridegroom are never used.

2. A little over a quarter of an inch wide.

1. Will you kindly tell me what will remove ink stain and mildew from white linen?

Mrs. G. W.

2. Kindly let me know what will take out black spots from a waist. I rolled up a white waist when it was about half dried, and left it for a week, and it is all full of black spots.

3. Also let me know what will take out ink from a white waist.

A. CONSTANT READER.

1 and 2. The waist is mildewed, as well as the linen. It is not safe to roll up and put away damp linens or cottons in warm weather. Wait until the stuff is quite dry. Cover the spots with buttermilk and salt, or lemon juice and salt, and lay in the sun for several hours. Wash out the paste and renew the application and sunning.

2. Cyanide of potassium will take out ink spots. As it is a deadly poison, take care of it.

I have some expensively bound books in an oaken bookcase on a shelf some five feet from the floor. More cheaply bound volumes are within eight inches of the floor. I found, on handling my better books, that the side covers were heavily spotted with a white mould. I do not understand the cause of this, since the cheap books are in no such condition. The house and cellar are not damp, and the bookcase is in a middle room, opposite two windows exposed to the west. Could you suggest the cause and remedy?

M. E. D.

Volumes heavily bound in morocco or calf take mould more readily than those bound in cloth or paper, which absorbs the moisture. I know of no preventive except admitting the air and sun freely, and wiping the books off once a week. The extraordinary humidity of the present season has caused much damage to libraries.

1. Kindly inform me what a young man 30 years old should do for his hair. It has stopped growing and is getting very thin around the temples. I have tried brushing it, but it does not seem any better.

2. Would also like to know what will take iron rust out of white clothes.

Mr. R.

1. I wish I could say truthfully that anything will arrest growing baldness. I have never known of one well authenticated instance in which the lost hair was induced to re-cover the bald scalp, unless in cases where the evil work was the effect of illness. Were you to have your head shaved, I doubt if it would do any good. Brushing it certainly will not. The one faint hope is in massage.

2. See advice given to two other querists.

Could the proprietor of a planing mill in our neighborhood be compelled to discontinue the burning of shavings and sawdust? The soot that settles all over the neighborhood is very injurious to our health and very annoying. We are compelled at times to close our windows and doors. The proprietor treats any complaint with indifference, informing the complainants "if they didn't like it they could move." This seems like adding insult to injury.

E. McC. B.

The neighbors should make a formal complaint to the Board of Health if they would have the nuisance abated.

### TYPES OF THE NOTABLE WOMEN OF AMERICA-NO. 3



MISS WADSWORTH

Drawn From a Photograph

She is a cousin of Mr. Craig Wadsworth, the recently appointed Third Secretary to the American Embassy at London, and is well known abroad.

### MARION HARLAND'S CHOICEST RECIPES

#### HOME-MADE LAUNDRY SOAP. (Repeated by Request.)

**D**ISSOLVE a can of patent lye in three (3) pints of cold water, add two (2) ounces of powdered borax (more can be used if desired), and one-half cup ammonia. When lukewarm pour gradually into a pan containing two and two-thirds (2 2-3) quarts of grease, stirring for about ten minutes, or until of the consistency of honey. The clearer the grease the nicer the soap that will be the result; the grease should be of the same temperature as the lye, etc.—that is, lukewarm. Should there be a difference, the mixture may curdle, in which case warm the mixture slightly. Any perfume can be added; a teaspoonful of oil of bergamot and rose geranium is nice. This will be found a desirable toilet soap also. Sometimes it will float, but not always. It will be "ripe" in two weeks.

The mixture can be poured into moulds or a large pan, then cut up into bars or cakes in about an hour.

#### SUPPER ROLLS

Sift one quart of flour with a little salt three times to insure lightness and dryness. Chop into it one large tablespoonful of shortening, and wet up with a cupful of lukewarm milk. When well mixed, add half a yeast cake, dissolved in warm water, and a tablespoonful of sugar. Knead well; set aside to rise. When it has doubled the original bulk, make into rolls. Throw a cloth over the pan in which these are arranged, let them rise half an hour and bake covered half an hour. Then brown.

#### A TEA LOAF

Sift a quart of flour three times with two rounded teaspoonfuls of baking powder and a salt spoonful of salt.

Mix in a large bowl two cupfuls of milk (the fresher the better), a large spoonful of melted butter, a tablespoonful of sugar, two well-beaten eggs—finally, the sifted prepared flour.

Beat hard for one minute and bake in a buttered cake mould. Cover for the first half hour with paper, then brown. Turn out as you would a cake, and eat hot, cut into slices.

#### APPLE FLUMMERY

Line a glass dish with lady fingers, and pour over them two cupfuls of cold custard. Set aside upon the ice while you prepare the flummery. Whip stiff the whites of four eggs with half a cupful of powdered sugar. Now, peel six fine harvest, or other well-flavored, tender apples, one at a time, and grate each directly into the meringue, stirring it instantly out of sight. Pile within the cake-lined dish, and bury in ice until you are ready to serve it.

HOW  
TO  
CARE FOR  
THE  
LITTLE  
ONES

### THE PARENTS' CORNER

HINTS  
TO  
MOTHERS  
ON  
TRAINING  
YOUTH

**W**ILL you please suggest some pretty flowers for a baby's grave? We buried our baby this spring, and this summer we have been unable to keep her grave nice. This fall I would like to fix it up for next spring, as we expect to move and must leave our darling here, and no one will be here to take care of her grave. Tell me something pretty which will come up every spring from the seeds falling in the fall. There is no one at this cemetery to take care of the graves, therefore I wish to do all I can before I go away. Also, please tell me where I can purchase good seeds, or whatever you may suggest, such as roots or bulbs.

Mrs. P. C.

Your touching request brings to my mind the picture of a family burying-ground in old Virginia, in which the mortal remains of seven generations lie awaiting the day which is to make all alive and young forevermore. The plantation has passed into the hands of strangers. Those whose fathers lived and died there, are scattered all over this vast land of ours, and seldom return to look upon the smouldering heaps of their kindred dust. But, ever green and bright, the "periwinkle," or, as some call it, "running myrtle," holds its own against weed and bramble. In the springtime it is cheerful with modest blue flowers; for the rest of the year the glossy leaves flourish bravely. At the head and foot of each grave bloom other spring flowers—daffodils, narcissus and lilies-of-the-valley. The bulbs have not been renewed since 1820, when the sweet gentlewoman, whose love for flowers is still a family tradition, although there is nobody now living upon the earth who ever saw her face, was laid to sleep among the plants she had tended.

Every spring, jonquils and narcissus flower in my garden grow from roots dug, ten years ago, from that old "God's Acre." So I advise you to set hardy bulbs about your baby's peaceful bed, and, upon the gentle swell of earth, periwinkle roots. The fast-growing vines will keep the mound as green as love could wish, and extirpate rank wire grass and tall, noxious weeds.

There is also a low-running thyme which will, in time, lay a mat of velvet over the earth. It flowers spicily in June and July. Any florist can supply you with these plants and bulbs.

May I add one word from mother-heart to mother-heart? You may, in days to come, hold other children in the now empty arms. I pray the dear Father that you may. They may grow up—"live to grow up"—we have a way of saying, when, in reality, the one who has passed from our sight is more really and gloriously alive than they. They will leave you for homes of their own. This—your first-born—will never be absent from you if you so will it. You will carry this one of your treasures with you when you leave, perhaps for all time, the little scar your bereavement has made upon the bosom of Mother Earth. Your baby has

"Fled into the sunshine.

Freed bird from narrow nest."

Comfort yourself with these words.

Remembering how your time is taken up, I would not write until I could be of some use. Well, we have both suffered with the prickly heat, and tried several things some of my acquaintances here advised, and the little darlings were covered all over with heat. Three weeks ago, looking over some old books, I found this recipe and tried it. It worked wonders, both on babies and grown-ups. It also relieved hives at once. Get 5 cents worth of rosewater and mix with one teaspoonful of epsom salts.

M. B.

The foregoing is from a New Orleans correspondent, and, therefore, the better worth trying. We can all imagine the type of prickly heat stung into being by Louisiana suns.

In my own nursery, and in those of my children who have babies, I have seen a solution of baking soda and water used successfully. The inflamed cuticle must be washed with it, morning and night, as I explained last week. But rosewater is healing and epsom salts are a specific for heated blood, and I doubt not the new formula will work well.

Dress the babies as lightly as is consistent with propriety at this fervid season; have linen pillows for their cribs, and their rooms well ventilated by night, as by day.

Is there any place in this city where children's hair can be sold? I have four little daughters, ages 8, 10, 12 and 14, who have just had their hair cut in "Columbia" fashion. This is the second time their hair has been cut in two years, and it measures sixteen and eighteen inches. As their hair gets darker every year, it is useless to keep it. They are anxious to dispose of it to "have money for Santa Claus."

MOTHER.

Long-headed, as well as long-haired little lassies! Their mother, too, is wise not to make them suffer through the summer under the weight of their heavy tresses. Take the short locks to a dealer and worker in human hair, and get a good sum toward the Christmas boxes. There must be dozens of such in any large city. Business addresses are not allowed in this column.

Kindly inform me if it is customary for parents to send cards to their friends on the birth of a child. If so, what is expected of the recipient?

Mrs. D.

It is optional with the parents whether or not to send announcement cards. The recipients often respond by sending a gift to the new-comer, but this is not biding upon them. It is quite enough to acknowledge the compliment by a visiting card, upon which are written a few words of congratulation.

Please have the kindness to inform me if good quality of colored ribbons used by little girls for hair, neck and waist, becoming rumpled and somewhat soiled, can be washed and ironed so as to look well enough to be worn again, and how this should be done?

S. M. F. D.

Colored ribbons may be washed and used again and again, if not too much faded. Have a clean board—like a skirt-board—cover with white cloth and pin each ribbon upon it smooth and taut. Have ready a mixture of cold water and ox-gall—one dessert spoonful of gall to two quarts of water. Dip a clean sponge in this and wash the ribbon from end to end, always lengthwise. This will set the color. Leave it alone until almost dry, when wash again with a clean sponge dipped in pure cold water. Sponge well, and leave the ribbons to dry on the board. You may, if you like, iron them on the wrong side, laying a thin, damp cloth over them, and ironing through this, that the iron may not leave a "shine" on the silk. The best judges of such matters advise against the ironing.

### AMERICAN WOMAN RAISED TO BE A COUNTESS BY THE POPE'S AUTHORITY

**P**EW people know that the United States claims as native one Countess who did not receive her title by marriage, but was given her title by Pope Leo himself. The woman in question is no other than Countess Spottiswood-Mackin, well known in social and diplomatic circles on both sides of the ocean; the widow of a United States Senator and a writer of books. She was enrolled by Pope Leo after her conversion to the Catholic faith, for her time is spent in Paris, although the coronation drew her to London this summer. Countess Mackin has written two books, charity. "A Society Woman in Two Continents" and "From Rome to Lourdes."

he said: "I am indeed glad that I made you a Countess, for you certainly merit the distinction."

Her title was recognized in this country by President McKinley and by Secretary Hay.

Countess Mackin was a Western girl, the daughter of James H. Britton, former Mayor of St. Louis. She married Senator Mackin, of New York, and still claims that city as home. Much of her time is spent in Paris, although the coronation drew her to London this summer.

Countess Mackin has written two books, charity. "A Society Woman in Two Continents" and "From Rome to Lourdes."

Afterward, when the Pope received her, and "From Rome to Lourdes."